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PFC Joshua Alling Stezin; SGT Christopher Patrick Stokes; SSG William Eugene Stratford; SPC Clifford Lajoil Summers II; 1LT Lee S. Tilghman; SPC Mark Joseph Travitz; SPC Francisco Javier Trinidad; 2LT James Patrick Wade; SGT Travis Wayne Wagner; SPC Ian Edward Watkins; SSG Patrick Francis White; SGT Deone Lamar Whitehead; PFC Robert John Wilsman; SPC Neil Patrick Woelfel; SGT Peter Ernst Yenter; SPC Peter James Hansen; SGT Jeremiah Steven Hatch; SPC Nicholas Ryan Lester; SPC William Richard Abel II; PFC Alphonso Ronee Alford.

CW2 James Darren Allen; SGT Gabriel James Aquilano; PFC David Lee Arnett; SGT Brian Nicholas Badamy; CPT Jarrod C. Bailey; SGT Mark Angelo Bangcaya; PFC Justin Avery Banks; PFC Irvin Mark Anthony Barnett; SPC Andrew William Barone III; SGT Matthew Wayne Bonnell; PFC Joel Adam Brown; SSG Henry Burden; SGT Keith Anthony Caldwell; SGT Israel Cantu, Jr.; SGT Miguel Cipres, Jr.; SPC James Ernest Clark III; SGT Derek Bernhard Constable; SGT Joshua Lindsey Cook; SGT Ramon O. Crespongron; SPC Jason Tyler Curle.

SPC Tristan Davis; CPL Louis Michael Duran; SGT Robert Stephen Fornier; PFC Savannah Marie Freeman; ISG Brian Keith Fryer; 1LT Brian E. Gavazzi; PFC Christopher Larry Gonzales; SFC Emma Grau; SPC Nathaniel Steven Gray; SPC John Edward Green IV; PFC Tiffany Danielle Hammonds; SGT Marcus Dewayne Holder; SGT Rodney Holland; PFC Steven Anthony Hoover; SPC Shane Patrick Jauck; PFC Bryan Glynn Kelly; SPC Justin Wayne Keys; CPL Christopher Craig Land; SPC Davis Pallyn Laureta; PFC Thomas Lee.

SGT Jonathan Matthew Lehman; CPT Charles David Lewis; SGT Raymond Liddell, Jr.; SPC David Raymond Lopez; PFC Brandon Rainer Mackey; PFC Christopher Scott Mattingly; SGT Michael Reid McCloskey, Jr.; SGT Matthew Linden McGraw; PFC Javier Apolonio Medina; SGT Isaiah Matthew Melendez; SPC Shannon Lee Melendez; SPC Michael Robert Menrath, Jr.; SPC Temukisa Shantel Mewhort; SSG Ricardo Levette Monroe; SGT John Joseph Mutnansky; SGT George Eugene Myers; SSG Jim Jay Nance; SPC Jeremy Gregg Nicholson; SGT Victor Dewayne Odom; SGT Joseph Stephen Opyt.

SGT Jennifer L. Ortizchajon; SFC Marco Antonio Parris; CPL Hrair Petrosyan; SPC Justin William Phillips; SGT Steven Allen Pigg; PFC James Christopher J. Quesada; SFC Alfredo Quintero; SSG Brian Keith Reynolds; SPC Michael James Roberts; SGT Ryan Christopher Ronning; SPC Andrew Charles Ruelle; SPC Tyrone Robert Ruffin; SFC Brian Keith Sanders; SSG Daniel Sartor; SGT David Anthony Schumaker; PV2 Antonio Carlos Sellers; SSG Kyle Patrick Shook; SGT Chase Michael Smagala; SPC Brian Dee Smith; SPC Maurice Alexander Taylor.

SPC Timothy Lee Vanburen, Jr.; SSG Lewis Theodore Vann; SGT Justin Alan Walker; SPC Dustin Phillip Wilburn; SSG Patrick Kenneth Young; SGT Rachel Louise Ackerman; SPC Lorelei Leigh Corominas;

2LT Charles Nathan Davis; SPC Kristina Danielle Hilstad.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as you know, the Defense authorization bill passed the Senate last week. Like many of my colleagues, I filed an amendment to the legislation, which had been included in the committee managers' package. Unfortunately, due to procedural matters stemming from the Senate majority's decision to limit amendments, my amendment, No. 5415—and many others like it—was not permitted to move forward. Although my amendment was not able to be considered by the Senate during debate over the Defense bill, I nonetheless want to bring the issue underlying the amendment to the attention of my colleagues.

My amendment was quite simple. It was a sense of the Senate that stated that funding for Department of Defense programs involving traumatic brain injury, TBI, and psychological health should be included in the President's fiscal year 2010 base budget.

Typically, the majority of funding for such programs has been included in supplemental appropriations measures. The reasoning apparently has been that these programs are a cost of war, and therefore they should be addressed through war supplementals.

But TBI and psychological health issues are problems that have been with us for some time and unfortunately are going to be with us for the foreseeable future.

Military personnel often experience health difficulties owing to TBI and psychological injuries long after their combat tour has been completed. Moreover, it has been reported that as many as one in five military personnel returning from Afghanistan and Iraq will suffer from TBI. That is a significant percentage of our military. There are currently nearly 3,000 brave Kentuckians deployed in the war on terror. According to these projections, close to 600 of these brave men and women will suffer from TBI. That figure does not even include those who have already returned from theater.

Considering the long-term health ramifications of TBI and the large number of military personnel who will face these challenges, it seems to me that this reality ought to be reflected in DOD's long-term baseline budgeting rather than through ad hoc supplementals.

My amendment would have put the Senate on record as stating that TBI and psychological health issues reflect a long-term budget priority for our Nation and should be considered as part of the regular order. I believe we owe the brave men and women of our military no less.

NEPAL

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I have closely followed developments in

Nepal for several years, and have been encouraged by the progress that tiny Himalayan country is making to end a divisive, bloody conflict and become a more peaceful, just and democratic society.

An enormous amount of work remains to be done, including the writing of a new constitution, demobilization and reintegration of Maoist combatants, restructuring and reform of the Nepali Army, policies and programs to address the legacy of discrimination against women and minority groups, programs of assistance for the millions of impoverished rural Nepali people who are illiterate and lack basic services, and justice for victims of atrocities committed by both sides of the conflict.

As chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee I have included additional assistance for Nepal, above the amounts requested by the White House, for these efforts, and I commend the U.S. Ambassador, Nancy Powell, for the way that she has represented our country there. The United States has a strong interest in a democratic, peaceful Nepal, and although the situation remains fragile and the future unpredictable, Ambassador Powell and her staff have worked hard in an even-handed, diplomatic way to help keep the peace process on track.

I have also urged the leaders of Nepal's political parties, including the Maoists, to put partisan and personal interests aside for the greater good of their country at this critical time in Nepal's history. For too long, politics in Nepal have been equated with cronyism, corruption and neglect. The Nepali people who courageously took to the streets and risked their lives—some of whom lost their lives—to oust an abusive monarch, deserve a government that represents them and works to address their needs.

There are three specific issues I want to mention briefly today. The first is the treatment of Tibetan refugees in Nepal. There are disturbing reports that the Nepali Government is taking steps to forcibly return to China, in violation of international law, Tibetan exiles in Nepal, presumably in an effort to curry favor with the Chinese Government. These people have risked their lives to escape Chinese repression, and in the past the Nepali Government has, with rare exceptions, provided them refuge. The Nepali Government has a legal and moral responsibility to continue to respect the rights of Tibetan refugees, and this is an issue that the United States and others will be watching closely.

The second issue is justice, which is fundamental to any democratic society, and that means an independent judiciary and the rule of law. In Nepal, government officials who abuse their authority have too often escaped justice. Impunity has been the rule, including for members of the Nepali Army and Maoist forces.